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Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554

DEC 12 1997

| In the Matter of |) | |
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| Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service |))) | CC Docket No. 96 <u>-45</u> |
| Forward-Looking Mechanism for High Support for Non-Rural LECs |))) | CC Docket No. 97-160 |

SUBMISSION OF COST MODEL

In response to the Commission's request for information, Ameritech submits its cost model under separate cover with request for confidential treatment. The Commission requested that parties seeking consideration of their model regarding customer location and outside plant design issues raised in this proceeding as the platform for a federal mechanism used to determine non-rural carriers' forward-looking costs of supported services submit the model to the Commission no later than December 13, 1997.

Ameritech's model, Ameritech Facility Analysis Model ("AFAM"), deals with these issues. The development of TELRICs for unbundled loops in state proceedings in the Ameritech region involved an earlier version of this model. Because of the additional level of disaggregation required by criteria 10 of the Commission's Universal Service

 $^{^2\,} Ameritech\ means:\ Illinois\ Bell\ Telephone\ Company,\ Indiana\ Bell\ Telephone\ Company,\ Incorporated,$ Michigan Bell Telephone Company, The Ohio Bell Telephone Company, and Wisconsin Bell, Inc.



¹ Public Notice, DA 97-2372, released November 13, 1997.

Order,³ the model has been extended to comply with this requirement. Ameritech has provided this model as part of its company-specific proposals to develop the cost of supported services in universal service cost proceedings in Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin.⁴ These state proceedings will ultimately result in cost studies for supported services to be submitted by the states to the Commission.

AFAM currently meets all of the applicable criteria that have been established by this Commission as well as the majority of the specific items of guidance mentioned in the Public Notice. For example, AFAM uses geocoded data in its distribution area ("DA") design module. Also, because AFAM uses wire center information that tells the wire center for each customer address, line counts and wire center boundaries are easily made consistent. Hence, it is not necessary to use external data using standard Geographic Information System ("GIS") format to determine Ameritech's wire center boundaries. However, because AFAM constructs DA boundaries using geocoded data, GIS data format could be accommodated relatively easily.

Ameritech does not propose that AFAM be considered an alternative module for inclusion in the federal mechanism. The current version of AFAM uses proprietary information based on internal operating and management systems of Ameritech describing the location of customers and outside plant facilities. Since AFAM was designed to use these data sources effectively, Ameritech does not know whether

³ FCC 97-157, released May 8, 1997, at ¶250.

⁴ Ameritech also intends to provide AFAM in an appropriate Ohio proceeding.

comparable information is readily available to other companies. Certainly, Ameritech

does not have the details to use AFAM for any other company. For example, while

AFAM can accommodate different fiber-copper cross-over points, Ameritech is unable to

provide comparative outputs using different cross-over points for geographic areas not

currently served by Ameritech as requested by the Public Notice. Nevertheless, the

AFAM documentation should enable the Commission to examine how Ameritech has

dealt with customer location and outside plant design issues using internal data sources

and engineering guidelines. Ameritech believes that the submitted documentation

should help the Commission select an appropriate federal mechanism.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 12, 1997

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Todd H. Bond, do hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Submission of Cost Model has been served on the parties listed below on the attached service list, via first class mail, postage prepaid, on this 12th day of December, 1997.

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